

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

When a packet arrives at a shaping unit 500, a discard control unit 510 judges whether to "store" or "discard" the arrived packet. Packets judged to be "stored" are stored into a packet storage FIFO buffer 520 and sent out within a transmission bandwidth greater than the total sum of user-by-user minimum bandwidths. A bandwidth check unit 600 checks bandwidth per user and judges packets that fall within the bandwidth to be high priority packets and packets that fall outside the bandwidth to be low priority packets. If a large quantity of packets are stored into the packet storage FIFO buffer 520, the discard control unit 510 determines that low priority packets are exclusively "discarded," thus securing high priority packets from being discarded. Thereby, the shaping unit 500 ensures proper packet transmission within user-specific minimum bandwidth.